

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02694 190526Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 HA-05 OMB-01 /075 W
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O 190500Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4610
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS CZ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2694

LONDON FOR ARA DAS BUSHNELL

PANAMA FOR ROBERT PASTOR, NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR

SUBJECT: BALAGUER ADDRESSES THE NATION

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER APPEARED ON TELEVISION SHORTLY
AFTER 11 PM TONIGHT, THE FIRST TIME HE HAS SPOKEN TO THE
DOMINICAN PEOPLE SINCE THE CRISIS CREATED BY THE DOMINICAN
MILITARY'S INTERRUPTION OF THE ELECTION VOTE-COUNT.
BELOW IS SEQUENTIAL ACCOUNT OF HIS REMARKS IN 19-MINUTE
EXTEMPORANEOUS ADDRESS. ANALYSIS FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

2. SPEAKING AS PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF THE REFORMISTA
PARTY, HE EXHORTED THE POPULACE TO ACCEPT WITH TRANQUILITY
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THE LEGAL DECISION OF THE JCE WHEN FINAL
RESULTS OF THE VOTE COUNT ARE IN.

3. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A RECITATION OF ELECTORAL
IRREGULARITIES HE SAID OCCURRED OWING TO INCOMPETENCE
OF JCE IN HANDLING REGISTRATIN OF VOTERS. FOR EXAMPLE,
HE SAID 26,000 VOTERS WERE LISTED AS RESIDENTS OF THE CIBAO

CITY OF LA VEGA WHO ACTUALLY LIVED IN SANTIAGO. FOR ANOTHER, THE LAST NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION PREPARED BY JCE WAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO HIS REFORMISTA PARTY. HE ALSO SAID JCE DID NOT SEND TO ALL ELECTORAL "ORGANS" CERTAIN INSTRUCTIONS ON RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS.

4. EVEN THE REFORMISTAS MADE MISTAKES, HE SAID, SUCH AS NAMING 800 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AS POLL-WATCHERS. THESE PEOPLE FAILED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SHOW UP FOR THEIR DUTIES AND CONSEQUENTLY WERE REPLACED BY IGNORANT YOUNG GIRLS WHO COULD NOT STAND UP TO CASE-HARDENED POLL-WATCHERS OF "AN OPPOSITION PARTY," (CLEAR REFERENCE TO PRD). DESPITE THESE IRREGULARITIES WHICH MARRED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, BALAGUER SAID THE COUNTRY MUST ACCEPT RESULTS OF THE ELECTION AS WILL BE PROCLAIMED BY THE JCE.

6. WHAT IS AT STAKE, HE SAID, IS NOT THE DESTINY OF ONE MAN OR ONE PARTY BUT THE DESTINY OF THE NATION. WITH THIS, HE LAUNCHED INTO CURIOUS EXPLANATION OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. HE SAID "A LIEUTENANT," SUSPECTING THAT A COUP D'ETAT WAS IN PROGRESS "HAD TAKEN ACTION." THIS BECAME THE "PRETEXT," HE SAID, FOR THE SUBSEQUENT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THE DOM REP.

7. SHIFTING TO THE ATTACK IN HIS WELL-KNOWN ORATORICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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STYLE, BALAGUER KNOCKED THE MICROPHONE ABOUT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AS HE GESTICULATED WITH GREAT FORCE AND, NEARLY SHOUTING, HE UNDERScoreD FOREIGN INTENT TO DAMAGE DOMINICAN RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT WAS LAMENTABLE, HE SAID, THAT CERTAIN DOMINICANS ENCOURAGED THIS INTERVENTION. HE MENTIONED THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AS A SCANDALOUS EXAMPLE. HE SAID OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS (VENEZUELA, US?) HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN AND AND HAVE THREATENED TO CUT OFF AID.

8. "I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES IN MY CAMPAIGN," HE SAID, "THAT AS LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT THERE WILL NOT BE A GOLPE DE ESTADO." HE ADDED, "THE DOMINICAN ARMED FORCES WILL BE THE FIRST TO RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION AND CARRY OUT DECISION OF THE JCE."

9. HE ENDED BY LASHING OUT AT PEOPLE WHO ARE SPREADING RUMORS OF POLITICAL STRIKES (A THREAT RENEWED BY VP CANDIDATE MAJLUTA EARLIER TODAY). HE SAID HE WOULD NEVER GOVERN IN A NON-CONSTITUTIONAL WAY OR WITHOUT POPULAR SUPPORT.

10. "HAVE FAITH IN ME AND IN THE ARMED FORCES,"
BALAGUER SAID. THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WAS CLEAN, HE
CONCLUDED, AND EVERYONE IN THE REPUBLIC SHOULD RESPECT
THE DECISION OF THE JCE AND THAT WHOEVER IS ELECTED,
POWER WILL BE HANDED OVER IN A NORMAL FASHION.
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